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Norfolk Virginian

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It is a woeful waste of time to argue politics with a man who didn't register.

Paul Dana, son of the late Charles A. Dana, is to succeed his father, it is said, as editor of the New York Sun.

The Peoria Journal says the "McKinley administration has yet its greatest crisis to face. The administration has yet to face the question of money."

Some of the Madrid newspapers are exceedingly angry because this government doesn't catch more filibustering expeditions before they get away to Cuba, Sol.

According to the Pittsburg Dispatch the annexation sentiment is growing faster in Cuba than autonomist sentiment—a fact that may bring new troubles to the Dons.

General Wilson, chief of the engineers of the army, wants to prepare for war to these piping times of peace to the extent of an expenditure of \$5,100,000 upon coastwise fortifications.

Professor Bridger, of Boston, who claims that "kissing is a sure cure for dyspepsia," evidently hopes to frighten young wives into learning to cook well, observes the Chicago Times.

Tammany's Executive Committee yesterday voted \$250,000 to the Van Wyck campaign fund for Mayor of New York, and will make another appropriation of a like amount next Thursday.

City elections are being carried by Democrats this fall. It is a straw that blows in favor of the Democracy of Greater New York, and encourages Democrats to get together, instead of getting apart, on the trails blazed by orators and faction leaders, says the New Orleans Picayune.

Mr. McKinley, perhaps, deserves credit for trying to do his best, but the country will not be represented abroad as ably and creditably as it should be until the consular service shall be organized on the basis of merit, experience, and promotion, thinks the Philadelphia Bulletin.

Governor Tyler, of Tennessee, in a speech on "Irish Day" at the exposition, said: "If I were a sculptor I would chisel from the marble my idea of a hero. I would make it the figure of an Irishman sacrificing his hopes and his life on the altar of his country, and I would carve on its pedestal the name of Emmett."

The New York Press thinks that the mayoralty fight in the Greater New York is a fight between Benjamin F. Tracy, the regular Republican candidate, and Robert A. Van Wyck, the regular Democratic candidate. There can be no doubt of this. Henry George is not in it, Seth Low is not in it a little bit.

Some time ago the experiment was made of letting loose at Compiegne a swallow belonging to Antwerp in company with a number of pigeons. The swallow immediately made a bee-line for home and arrived there in one hour, while the pigeons required three days. "When the swallows homeward fly" is it?

It comes out, says the Savannah News, that the Republicans, just before the nomination of General Tracy, entered into negotiations with Seth Low to withdraw from the mayoralty contest, or they would support him under certain conditions. The conditions were that if elected Low would use the office for the benefit of the Republican party, and the Republican party in New York means Tom Platt. That was not the precise reading of that protocol, but it was what it meant.

URGENCY OF CURRENCY REFORM.

Hamilton's Circular of recent date declares the years of depression, distrust and loss through which the country has just passed, is clearly traceable to defects in our present currency system, and it sees no relief until a remedy is found for the evils known to exist. "The first thing to be done is to impress upon the minds of the people the fact that we cannot hope to enjoy a full measure of prosperity until the currency question is settled," and it thinks the way to have it settled is for Congress to go to work early in the coming session to that end.

This upon its face is all right, but how is it to be done and on what plan? There can be no question about the people's desire to see it settled at once and forever, but from all appearances President McKinley, or rather it is so said, that he is not thinking of urging the passage of any currency legislation at the coming session of Congress. From all accounts very many of his closest friends are finding fault with him about the indifference with which he has treated and continues to treat the subject.

WARTALK IN EUROPE.

The opinion seems to be quite general in Europe that the reply of Spain to the note delivered by the American Minister at Madrid, on the Cuban question, is of that defiant character which will bring about an open rupture between the United States and Spain if the latter does not recede from or modify her position.

The newspapers both in England and on the Continent are discussing the situation, some denouncing the people of this country as "insolent Yankees," while others are warning Spain that "she will be hopelessly overmatched in case of war with the United States." The latter are undoubtedly the more sensible, and Spain should not let her warning go unheeded.

The intimation of Spain that she has the right to search all American vessels found in Cuban waters under the assumption that they may be filibusters, is a matter which, if put into execution, is going to cause trouble, and there is no question as to who will get the worst of it.

But will the Spaniards really resort to this "right to search American vessels in Cuban waters?" If so, Sagasta must be prepared for the worst.

"SHERMAN FROZEN OUT."

The Lowell News believes that Mr. John Sherman's days are numbered as a member of President McKinley's Cabinet, and it refers to the visit of Consul General Lee to Washington a few days ago on business with the State Department about Cuban matters, in support of that belief. Our contemporary says that the General was in Washington preparing for his return to Cuba last week. He had a conference with Mr. McKinley and several with Assistant Secretary Day, but did not meet Secretary Sherman at all. Still there are persons who object to the assertion that Mr. Sherman has nothing whatever to do with the relations of this Government with Spain and Cuba, calling it "preposterous," etc. It declares that it would be preposterous for a man who has been in Washington during the last six months, and kept his eyes open, to claim to believe that Mr. Sherman has had anything whatever to do with either Spanish or Cuban matters. The opinion is prevalent in Washington that Mr. Sherman will be frozen out of the Cabinet before the first of the year.

Speaking of his prospective retirement from the Consul Generalship of Cuba, the News has it from a personal friend of General Lee that he will return to Virginia in the spring and begin an active personal canvass for election to the United States Senate, to succeed Senator Martin.

THE COTTON CROP.

The Augusta Chronicle publishes a most important article from Mr. Alfred B. Shepperson in reference to the statistical condition of cotton. Mr. Shepperson is an authority in such matters, and what he has to say on this subject is entitled to careful consideration. The Chronicle, basing its remarks on the figures furnished, says that with 550,000 bales less than the visible supply of cotton in the United States at this time last year and with 250,000 less in Europe, making a deficiency, as compared with the visible supply of last year of nearly 1,000,000 bales, middling cotton in New York is selling for 13 cents less than a year ago. Already the decline in price has cost the producers over \$30,000,000.

It declares that the decline in cotton is not warranted by the statistical condition, and it would so appear from the above figures. It depreciates the fact that the producers are rushing the crop to market and says that the spinners are simply taking advantage of their necessities and their eager desire to sell. Quoting temporary declares that there is no remedy for the cotton planter except to hold his crop for better prices. The world will probably need a great deal more cotton this year than the South will produce. But whether this be so or not the spinners who take the crop at present prices will have no cause to regret their purchases.

THE FIGHT IN HAMPTON ROADS.

"The death of Admiral Worden, who was the commander of the Monitor in the memorable fight between that vessel and the Virginia in Hampton Roads in 1862, has caused certain Northern newspapers to indulge in all sorts of statements concerning that engagement,

and strange to say, every one of them clinging to the idea that the Monitor won the battle.

This has so often been corrected that it is a sheer waste of time to keep on repeating the facts in the case, even if it would do any good, which it would not, but the following from the Charleston News and Courier concerning the matter will not be found to be without interest:

"The Philadelphia North American is one of the class of loyal organs which make a point of ignoring the facts of history, that the Confederate ram Virginia fought the Monitor until the latter left the field, and afterward vainly challenged it to renewed combat, capturing one Federal vessel under its nose and driving a number of others out to sea or to the shelter of the guns of Fortress Monroe, where the Monitor itself remained through these proceedings. The American says: 'The defeat of the Merrimac gived our Northern ports from being ravaged by an engine of war which, up to the time of the appearance of the Monitor, had been unconquerable. Admiral Worden's coolness and courage in the fierce engagement were largely responsible for the signal victory.' The Virginia was never 'conquered.' She dominated Hampton Roads as long as she floated and until destroyed by her commander." Right.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

Cuba, like Hawaii, should be annexed only on civil service reform principles. As she has proved herself fit for the position.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

General Weyer is disposed to follow the example of John L. Sullivan. Finding himself outclassed as a fighter, he turns his attention to politics.—Washington Star.

At Toulon the bed of the sea was lighted up from a balloon attached to a tug, in the hope that a lost torpedo would be detected. The experiment was successful.

The Atchison Globe says that the recent "queen" of the Topeka festival uses snuff. Her newspaper pictures look as if she might be up to it also.—Chicago Times-Herald.

A Maine girl gave a man damages in a breach of promise case. At the rate when the summer girl engages her hand hereafter she should hold her pocket-book in it.—Philadelphia Times.

The Philadelphia Times has taken a vote on the smoking question in that city and in round numbers 21,000 to 7,000 have voted to have separate cars for cigars and cigarettes on the various street lines.

People who live in glass houses should be more careful than ever before about throwing stones. All the window glass manufacturers in the country it is estimated, have combined to form a trust representing \$30,000,000 of capital.—Charleston News and Courier.

Projectiles used by the United States army for its great modern guns cost as follows: Solid shot, 8-inch, \$69.80 each; 10-inch, \$114.50 each; 12-inch, \$212 each; 12-inch mortar shells weighing 800 pounds, \$114 each; 12-inch mortar shells, weighing 1,000 pounds, \$195 each.

Poverty is uncomfortable, as I can testify; but nine times out of ten the best thing that can happen to a young man is to be tossed overboard, and compelled to sink or swim for himself. In all my acquaintance I have never known a man to be drowned who was worth the saving.—James A. Garfield.

PERSONALS.

Prof. Hubert Herkimer, who is an American, will probably succeed the late Sir John Gilbert as president of the British Royal Society of Painters.

Miss Fisher, of Boston, was recently chosen as an expert in settling differences between the Spaulding Show Goods company and its employees.

In future years the defeated politician will comfort himself for a week on the hope that the result may be changed by the vote of Honolulu.—Philadelphia North American.

Major Thomas J. Kirkpatrick, of the Lynchburg bar, and one of the most prominent lawyers in Virginia, died at his home in that city, after an illness of several weeks. Major Kirkpatrick was sixty-nine years of age.

Colonel Isaac M. Morrow, lately appointed immigration inspector of Detroit, fought through four wars—the one between Uruguay and the Argentine Republic, the war against the Florida Seminoles, the Mexican and Civil wars.

The trustees of the University of the South (Episcopal), at Sewanee, Tenn., have voted to re-engage Dr. Trent, professor of history, for five years more, in spite of the fact that he declares the "old South" to be dead, and deservedly so.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Laurie, of Providence, R. I., who has just died, was for a time a missionary in Kurdistan, but spent most of his ministry in New England. He was the author of a number of religious books which had a large sale.

Dr. Herbert Friedenwald, of Philadelphia, who has been appointed superintendent of the manuscript department of the Congressional library at Washington, is about 35 years of age. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins and a Ph. D. of the University of Pennsylvania.

Among the 2,000,000 inhabitants of New York is a single William Shakespeare. There was another William Shakespeare a few years ago in Kansas City, but he moved to New Mexico. He is a shoemaker by trade and claims to be a descendant of the original William.

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